



Associate Expert Conservation and Use of Forest Genetic Resources in Latin America

ASSOCIATE EXPERT SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS

Position: Associate Expert, Conservation and Use of Forest Genetic Resources in Latin America
Sector: Agriculture and Natural Resources
Location: Cali, Colombia
Duration: Three year duration, contract renewed annually
Eligibility: The post is open to: **candidates who have Dutch nationality or a permanent residence status in the Netherlands; or candidates who have the nationality of another EU Member State.** For further information on *eligibility criteria* and the list of eligible developing countries see:
http://www.minbuza.nl/en/Key_Topics/Development_Cooperation/Associate_Experts_Programme

General information:

Bioversity International is the world's largest international research organization dedicated to the conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity. It is non-profit and independently operated. Bioversity's work is motivated by a vision in which people enjoy greater well-being through increased incomes, sustainable improved food security and nutrition, and greater environmental health, made possible by conservation and the deployment of agricultural biodiversity on farms and in forests. Bioversity International has its headquarters in Rome, Italy and offices in more than 20 countries worldwide, including 4 regional offices for Sub-Saharan Africa (Nairobi, Kenya), the Americas (Cali, Colombia), Asia, Pacific and Oceania (Serdang, Malaysia) and Europe (Rome, Italy). Bioversity is supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is funded by over 60 national and international donor agencies. The research is implemented through four Programmes (Diversity for Livelihoods, Understanding and Managing Biodiversity, Commodities for Livelihoods, and Global Partnerships) and three Research and Support Units (Policy and Law, Capacity Development and Public Awareness).

Position Overview:

The Associate Expert (AE) will participate in ongoing research and networking on forest genetic resources (FGR) activities in the Americas. Research activities consist in carrying out innovative research in collaboration with key regional partners such as the partners of the Latin American Forest Genetic Resources Network (LAFORGEN), the active platform of regional experts on FGR conservation and use. The research will be in line with Bioversity's priorities and will focus on conservation and use of FGR. It will include the analysis of spatial patterns of tree species' intraspecific diversity and the assessment of threats, including climate change, all providing key inputs to the formulation of effective conservation strategies for tree genetic resources. Besides this conservation focus, complementary research on the promotion of sustainable use of forest products (incl. Non-Timber Forest Products) will be carried out, with the objective of enhancing livelihoods of the populations that depend on them.

The AE will be given the responsibility for a specific research component, focusing on diversity analysis of forest genetic resources for the sustainable use and conservation of tree species that contribute to the improvement of human livelihoods. Spatial analysis based on innovative use of geographic information systems (GIS) will be an important research activity as well as standardization of methods to evaluate tree genetic resources' conservation status, all contributing to enable comparison of results of local partner projects on a regional (Latin America) scale and to encourage knowledge sharing between the regional partners. This is in line with the research activities that are carried out in Bioversity's FGR work in the Americas. It is expected that this research will result in publications in peer-reviewed journals, following Bioversity's publication strategy. In addition to research, the AE will also play a key role in steering dialogue and activities within LAFORGEN. The AE will also participate in relevant FGR meetings and congresses in the Americas.

Bioversity is seeking candidates prepared to make a three-year commitment with an anticipated start date by January 2011.

Specific duties and responsibilities:

The associate expert would carry out the following activities:

- Participate in implementation of research on regional diversity of FGR, providing answers to existing FGR information gaps needed to design efficient conservation strategies for forest genetic resources in Latin America.
- Provide scientific input for developing FGR research proposals in the region together with regional stakeholders.
- Participate in and contribute to relevant national and regional scientific and technical meetings and training programmes related to FGR carried out in the region.
- Provide scientific support to research partners in the region through capacity building, help with statistical and spatial analyses, research design, etc.
- Contribute to the development of FGR networking initiatives in the AMS region, establishing and maintaining contacts with FGR stakeholders (CG centres, NARS, universities, representatives of national programmes, etc.).
- Prepare scientific papers, disseminate information and contribute to public awareness in the area of FGR in AMS.
- Perform any additional tasks as requested by Bioversity's regional office, such as representation of Bioversity in regional fora on plant genetic resources.

The AE will collaborate with the team of scientists in Bioversity's AMS Office to prepare new project proposals, with emphasis on collaborative proposals within the framework of LAFORGEN, the Amazon Initiative Ecoregional Programme and/or the new CGIAR Consortium Research Programme on Forests and Trees.

Minimum qualifications, skills and experience:

Qualifications: ▪ M.Sc. degree/equivalent in a biological, agricultural or forestry-related subject; one or more courses in genetics would be an asset.

Experience: ▪ Relevant working experience, preferably in multicultural teams; forest biodiversity-related research (such as genetic diversity, population biology, forest conservation, non-timber forest products), particularly with forest genetic resources, accompanied by field experience, especially in Latin American countries.

▪ Experience with geographical information systems, statistical packages and/or programming is an advantage.

Skills: ▪ Data analysis skills; ability to work independently and in a multi-cultural environment.

Competencies: ▪ Achievement: self-motivated, with the ability to overcome obstacles to achieve objectives; interpersonal skills: the ability to work effectively in a team; creativity and Initiative: the ability to address unexpected issues or problems as they arise and to be innovative in planning and organizing research and other activities.

Languages: ▪ Fluency in English, good standard of written and spoken Spanish.

Duty Station:

The Associate Expert will be located at Bioversity's Office in Cali, Colombia, where office space and all necessary work facilities will be provided. Bioversity's office is situated on the CIAT campus about 20 km outside the city. Medical, educational, transport and communications services in Cali are good. Housing is not provided by Bioversity but the benefits package includes a housing allowance and assistance is provided in locating suitable accommodation. In Cali, staff benefit from the infrastructure, security arrangements, advice, and social provisions of the CIAT location.

Terms and conditions: Bioversity International offers an attractive remuneration package including a salary based on United Nations grade level P1/P2, post adjustment, non-contributory retirement plan, housing allowance, medical insurance and leave provisions. All benefits are denominated and paid in US Dollars.

Further information: on Bioversity can be found at: <http://www.bioversityinternational.org/>

Applications: Please apply online through [Bioversity Job Opportunities web page \(http://www.bioversityinternational.org/about_us/job_opportunities.html\)](http://www.bioversityinternational.org/about_us/job_opportunities.html)) by clicking the "Apply" button and completing the online application and attaching the required information.

The *curriculum vitae* should include applicant's date of birth, nationality, marital status (if married with spouse and children details); contact details; summary of secondary education; detailed description of higher education including degree courses undertaken and special assignments/projects; consultant contracts; work experience; recreational interests; language capabilities; details of three referees including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address.

Deadline for applications: 3 December 2010

All received applications will be acknowledged, but only short listed applicants will be further contacted.